

THE SABRES' BLADE

February 19, 1997

South Mecklenburg High School

8900 Park Road

Charlotte, North Carolina, 28210

Volume XXIV

Theft charges rock campus

By Cliff Mauriello

Authorities have charged two South employees with breaking and entering and larceny. Mrs. Naomi Davis, a twenty-nine year teaching veteran, and Mr. Davidson, a custodian, are accused of stealing television sets, VCRs, and computers. Four others not employed by the school are under investigation. Davidson had been removing school equipment since January of 1996, pilfering from \$5,000 to over \$10,000 worth of electronics.

Dr. Knox and the police monitored the situation closely, setting up sting operations in the evenings at school, but Davidson, who stole from buildings on campus without security systems, evaded detection until early in November, when he entered the JROTC building, cutting off the security system.

Davidson came to the ROTC building, which does have a security system, at seven o'clock on a Sunday evening. He typed in his personal identification number at 7:02, stole two televi-

sions, and then locked up after himself at 7:24.

When Dr. Knox confronted Davidson, he claimed he had come to buff and polish the floor. Dr. Knox was suspicious but still had no solid proof to challenge him.

On Friday, January 10, Davidson and the other suspect asked Mrs. Davis for a ride from her home to school, offering her a television set and a computer. Davis agreed. Davidson stole two televisions, two VCRs, and two computers. Davis then paid Davidson \$175 for a TV and a computer. The rest of the equipment was transported to Davidson's home.

The following Monday, Dr. Knox thoroughly questioned Davidson. Late that evening, he admitted to stealing the electronics.

Dr. Knox believes the courts will order Davis and Davidson to provide restitution, but it could be years before the school is reimbursed completely.

The school is looking into ex-

panding its security system throughout the campus. Dr. Knox admitted that if Davidson had not made the mistake of stealing from the secured JROTC building, he might still be at large.

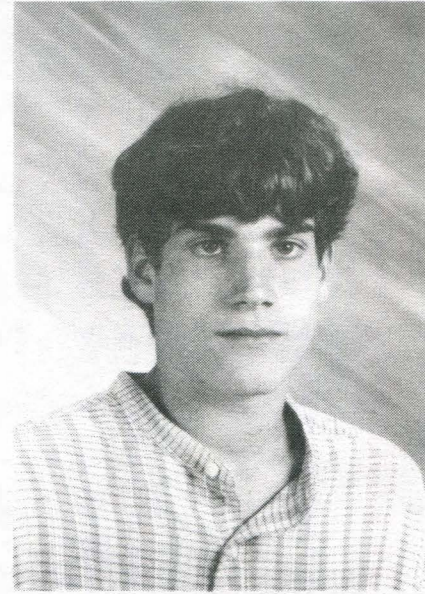
"Mr. Davidson used his knowledge of which buildings were secured to his advantage. I don't understand why he stole from a building with a security system," said Knox.

Both Davidson and Davis have been suspended by the school system. Dr. Knox commented that the situation has been "very painful" for most of the staff.

"There is a sense of disbelief. There were many, 'Oh, no! That can't be true.' type of responses," said Knox.

"It's sad. I feel sorry for both Mrs. Davis and Mr. Davidson. We can be glad we were able to identify the individuals who were guilty. It's a sad day. I am genuinely concerned for the parties involved, for their families, and for their friends," said Knox.

In Memory of Dave Harrelson



1981-1996

By Katie Payerle

Dave Jeffrey Harrelson, a ninth grader at South Meck, died on Monday, December 30, 1996. His death was unexpected and saddened the hearts of many people. Dave was a devout Christian who involved himself in numerous church activities including retreats and mission trips to Sunshine Ministries and Cherokee Reservation in North Carolina.

Dave liked to play the guitar and spend time outdoors. He also enjoyed racing go-carts, an activity for which he won many awards.

Dave Harrelson's memory

does not end there. He will be remembered as an energetic, funny, and "delightfully mischievous" friend to many. Jessica Klem, a friend, said, "He knew when you were sad and he'd try to cheer you up the best way he could. He was always smiling." Dave's best friend, Jason Hill, will remember Dave as someone who "got a lot of life out of fifteen years."

Dave Harrelson was always "wanting as a friend to give light and love to all who live," which is, appropriately, the last line of "Jesus Loves Me," Dave's favorite song.

Cowardin's motorbike costs him his license

By Cliff Mauriello

Dennis Cowardin's driver's license was suspended early in February of 1996 for driving his motorbike on the road. He had been warned previously. His license will not be reinstated until January of 1998, when he will turn 18.

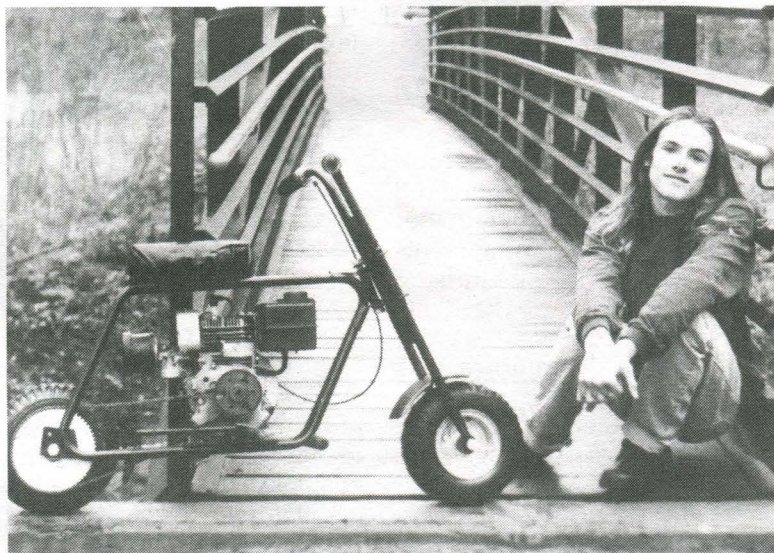
According to Cowardin, the bike itself does not meet legal safety regulations required by the City of Charlotte. The bike's small wheels were cited as a particular violation. The bike does meet safety regulations for driving outside of the city limits.

Cowardin built the bike himself. The bike does have turning signals and other safety features, and he follows all standard driving rules when he drives it.

"I built the bike all by myself, so it's hard to put it away. I love it. The fun thing about it is that it's so small. It's just a fun little thing," said Cowardin.

Dennis does not believe that the bike could be modified to meet city regulation because of the number of changes that would have to be made.

"It would be like building it all over again," said



Dennis Cowardin can't wait to be on the road again.

Dennis.

Cowardin could try to regain his license before next January, but it is not a major concern of his at the present time. Over the summer he may go to the authorities before his senior year when an automobile becomes a virtual necessity.

Dennis does not believe he received a fair judgment. He believes his action was trivial and that the authorities would do

better to spend their time enforcing more important laws.

"It keeps me out of trouble, and I wasn't hurting anyone. I try to stay off the road as often as I can," he said.

Cowardin spends much of his time with his camera now, instead of with his bike, although he still does drive it where he is allowed to use it.

"I've got to be sneaky about it," said Dennis.

Hawn receives Governor's award

By Jennifer Collins

Senior Amy Hawn was recently rewarded for devotion to community service in Mecklenburg County and North Carolina. She received the James B. Hunt Young Citizen's Award, one of the most prestigious awards in the state. Hawn received her award from Governor Hunt with other winners who represented each county in North Carolina.

In addition, Hawn was the sole recipient of a \$5,000 scholarship to the school of her choice. This generous gift is a donation from Governor Hunt's private account. Amy plans to attend Guilford College in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Amy's has participated in many extracurricular activities.

She played volleyball, was President of the Chamber Choir, served as an active member of student council and the executive council, competed on the wrestling team, served as member of the NAACP, founded and was President of the Peaceful Sabres Club, and contributed as a Peer Mediator.

Hawn is most proud of her participation in City at Peace, a culturally diverse performing arts group. She joined the group when she was thirteen and became the director a year later.

When asked about what motivates her to serve her community, Amy quickly responded, "Today's youth is a great resource; however, it is not tapped into by communities."

February
is Black
History
Month...

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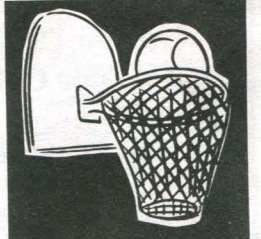


1996: The Year
in Review

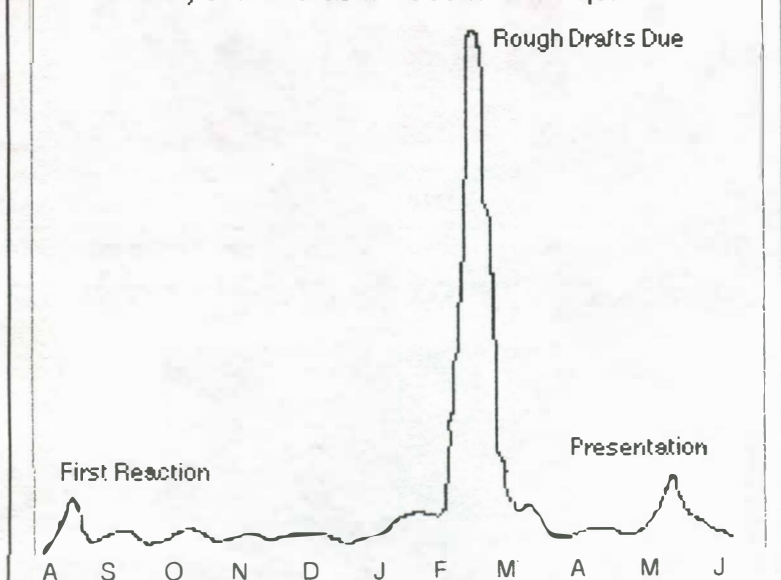
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ACC
B-Ball
Review

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Monthly Stress Levels of the Senior Exit Project



Title IX breaks ground for women athletes

By Lauren Coggins

Have you ever heard of Title IX? Probably not. Most people haven't, including the athletes to whom it applies.

Title IX is part of the 1972 Federal Education Amendments that prohibits gender discrimination in "any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance."

Because Title IX prohibits discrimination it has been used to benefit women's athletic programs, primarily in colleges. It requires that the number of varsity athletes at a school mirror the proportions of its male and female student populations. To comply with Title IX, many schools have begun new women's athletic programs.

But new sports require funding, and many feel that money is being taken from men's programs like football and basketball, which provide funds for the school. Many football coaches and fans want football to be exempt from Title IX, so their programs can spend astronomical amounts of money on recruiting, players' meals, housing, travel, and other expenses. They claim that football programs make large profits, when in truth, many programs lose money, draining funds from their schools that could be put to better use.

How can people attack new

women's programs, claiming that they are unsuccessful and that they do not bring in money for the school? When two-thirds of the scholarship money and 80 percent of the recruitment budgets are spent on men's sports, as studies show, new women's programs cannot be expected to succeed. Title IX does not force cuts in men's programs, so why, after having so much money for so long, can they not set aside money for new women's sports? Title IX has not only benefitted women's sports, it has also challenged the ideas that women are less interested in sports than men and that "activities, money, and fame belong to men."

Women's sports are on the rise, though, despite the grumbling of men's athletic programs. Since 1972 female participation in athletics has grown from less than ten percent of total student-athletes to more than thirty-five percent. Several court cases have ruled in favor of women's sports, most recently at Brown University in 1992.

Many claim that there are better, more efficient methods of regulating discrimination in intercollegiate athletics. But Title IX does the job well, and continues to prove itself through the growth of women's sports.

If it isn't broken, don't fix it

By Katie Payerle

In the last several years, South Meck has challenged the traditional ideas about scheduling. In the past, a school day has consisted of six or seven forty-five minute classes. Several years ago, South decided to implement an innovative A-day, B-day schedule which allows students to take up to eight classes full time. Now, the A-day, B-day schedule is under reevaluation. As a senior, the decision will not affect me, but I believe that the students next year would be faced with a distinct disadvantage if the six or seven period day schedule is recovered.

The key disadvantage to a six or seven period day is that ambitious students would be punished for their motivation. With the double-period requirement for AP sciences, ambitious students could find themselves in AG or AP classes during all six periods. Upper level classes demand a great deal of work after school. This means that students would be in school all day and doing homework all night, every night. With a four class per day

block schedule, students are given two days to complete homework in most classes.

The homework in itself would not present a problem to the motivated student. The problem would present itself when the same motivated student decided to involve himself in extracurricular activities. If a student is in school all day, expected to do homework for six classes every night, and still finds time for extracurricular activities, the student is likely to lose his motivation and energy. The student is left with no flexibility in his schedule, which can be frustrating to a person who is interested in many things.

While the significant decrease in after school time and significant increase in stress are the major considerations, other issues come into play as well. If this same motivated student decides to take a math, science, foreign language, and social studies in addition to English each year, the student is not only left with a tiring day and an inordinate amount of home-

work, he is left without the opportunity to explore electives out of interest and genuine curiosity. High school is a place for exploration as well as learning. Teachers may argue that they are able to accomplish more in their individual subject with a six or seven period day, but is a student able to accomplish more in his or her education? If a student is stressed out, tired, and tied to an inflexible schedule, the student will be less responsive to the material covered by the teacher by the end of the year.

A well-rounded education should be the priority of the high school staff. Extracurricular activities and interesting electives not only help to keep students interested in school, they contribute to the diversity of a student's education. Block scheduling allows for flexibility in schedule, less stress, more time to explore interests, and a well-rounded education. A six or seven period day is an idea that should be left where it is — in the past.

Snoop 101: Welcome to Michael Eric Dyson's World

By Scott Syfert

Since the University of North Carolina opened its door in 1795, commencement at UNC has been a time of celebration. Bright-eyed students appear in the fall and disembark four years later, educated and exhausted, year after year. But it is also a time of reflection. The bi-annual ritual is, in a sense, a momentary snapshot of UNC: what it is and where it is going.

Seen in that light, the commencement address delivered Dec. 15 before 1,600 graduates and their parents, grandparents and friends, was a distressing spectacle. The speaker was Michael Eric Dyson, author and professor of communications studies at UNC.

"While America has not yet turned to eating its young," said Dyson, "its rhetoric of discipline and punishment ... is staggering. America is prosecuting a war against its youth, and the casualties are piling up."

This "war against youth" was mainstream society's general revulsion against "gangsta" rap. (Gangsta rap is the hard-core rap music that celebrates profanity, violence against women, and homicide, such as Ice-T's "Cop Killers.") The "war against gangsta rap," explained Dyson, "in truth is a war against youth."

"The value of the youth culture is partly in its blistering detail about how the American Dream has not only been fondled," he said, "but molested."

Dyson goes on to describe gangsta rap as a "celebration of the freedom of lyrical creativity, rhetorical dexterity and racial signification. It's glimpsed when Snoop Doggy Dogg flows:

'Fallin' back on that ass, with a hellified gangsta lean

Gettin' funky on the mic, like an old batch of collard greens...

Pimpin' ho's and clockin' a grip like my name is Dolemite."

From the ridiculous to the surreal, Dyson continues: "Snoop's extraordinary craft is also peeped when he attempts to place his speech in the context of the theological and sociological debates about the nature of evil and undeserved suffering. Snoop says:

'Wake up, jum out my bed I'm in a two man cell wit' my homie lil' half-dead."

Dyson went on in this vein for some time, from a discussion of the relationship between God and man ("theodicy is operating in the lyrics of some rappers") to the socio-economics implications of the "work" of the rapper Notorious B.I.G.:

"Back in the day, our parents used to take care of us

Look at 'em now, they're even _____ scared of us."

There was much more along these lines, with various attacks on Michael Jordan, the "obtuse pedantry" and "stodgy, stolid, and stale beliefs" of parents in general, and, apropos of nothing, the Republican Party of California. Afterward, Chancellor Michael Hooker received dozens of angry phone calls, and spent the morning appeasing enraged parents. (One parent told the *Daily Tar Heel* she didn't expect to attend commencement to be screamed at for 18 minutes.)

What are we to make of this? Some of it's offensive, much of it incomprehensible, and the remainder silly. But overall, it was depressing. For Dyson's speech was, unfortunately, quite representative of what is going on in much of academia today. And

that is a precipitous slide in standards and a general mushy-headedness.

From 1914 to 1938, for example, the percentage of academic institutions with literature requirements fell from 57 to 38 percent. Today it is less than 14 percent. Two-thirds of 67 colleges surveyed by the National Alumni Forum no longer require courses on Chaucer, Milton or Shakespeare. In a world without standards, Western culture is Snoop Doggy Dogg.

As a result, popular culture is increasingly the *only* culture taught on campus. At Georgetown you can take "The Gangsta Film"; at Duke, "Melodrama and Soap Opera"; or at Dartmouth, "20th Century American Boxing Fiction and Film." Other prominent universities offer classes on Elvis, comic books or even UFO's.

According to the *New York Times*, English teachers no longer want to teach Chaucer or Shakespeare. Instead, "they want to teach pop culture courses because that's what the students want." In this sense, Dyson was preaching to the choir. Most of the students at commencement that afternoon were conversant with Snoop Doggy Dogg; far fewer with Chaucer.

Unfortunately, much of pop culture is degraded, vapid and shallow, gangsta rap especially. If we are teaching the values of Snoop Doggy Dogg instead of Milton or Yeats, we can expect our children to be similarly degraded as well. And if Dyson's speech is indeed a reflection of the state of UNC - or its future - it is a very bleak one indeed.

Observer columnist Scott Syfert, a graduate of South, is in his last year of law school at UNC Chapel Hill.

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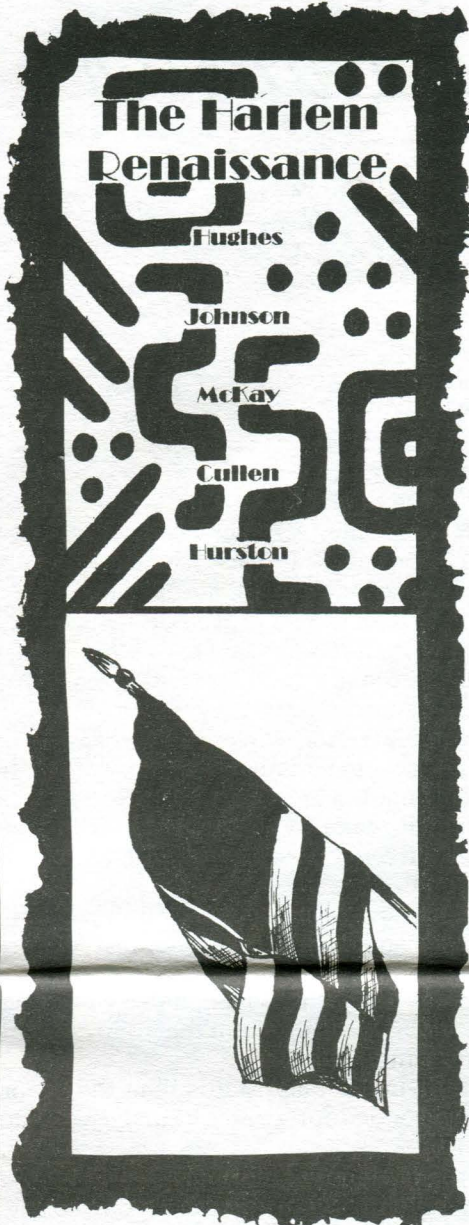
Celebrating Black History

"I hear that melting-pot
stuff a lot, and all I can say is
that we haven't melted."
Rev. Jesse Jackson

"It is a great shock at the age of
five or six to find that in a world of
Gary Coopers you are the Indian."
James Baldwin

"The blues was like that problem
child that you may have had in the
family. You just didn't know how
other people would take it."
B.B. King

We will have to repent in this
generation not only for the hateful
words and actions of the bad people
but for the appalling silence of the
good people.
Martin Luther King, Jr



"I swear to the Lord,
I still can't see,
Why Democracy means,
Everybody but me."
Langston Hughes

"In this country American means
white. Everyone else has to
hyphenate."
Toni Morrison

By Branna Calloway

February is here again and it's time to
celebrate Black History. This is the time
when stories about famous black heroes
will be retold; stories about the plight

of slaves and the
people who im-
proved the
world's view of
African-Ameri-
cans.

Black people
have come a long
way. Since the be-
ginning of slavery,
blacks have
fought for free-
dom and equality.
After emancipa-
tion, equality was
the biggest prior-
ity for black
people, which led
to the Civil Rights
Movement. Its
leader was Martin
Luther King Jr.
Out of the Civil
Rights Movement
rose the followers
of Malcolm X, a
Muslim who
thought that vio-
lence was a better
tactic than King's

non-violent approach. These two lead-
ers laid the foundations for future gen-
erations of African-Americans.

Further advancements have been
made since King and Malcolm X.
Blacks have served in Congress and on
the Supreme Court. Colin Powell be-
came the most probable black Presiden-
tial nominee until he withdrew from
the election before the Republican Con-
vention.

Blacks have also excelled in literary
endeavors. Toni Morrison, a professor
at Wake Forest University won the
Pulitzer Prize. Poet Maya Angelou was

congratulated by President Clinton for
her poetry, and author Terry McMillan's
books have been bestsellers. One even
became a major motion picture.

I, Too

I, too, sing America.
I am the darker brother.
They send me to eat in the kitchen
When company comes,
But I laugh,
And eat well,
And grow strong.

Tomorrow,
I'll be at the table
When company comes.
Nobody'll dare
Say to me,
"Eat in the kitchen,"
Then.

Besides,
They'll see how beautiful I am
And be ashamed-

I, too, am America.
Langston Hughes

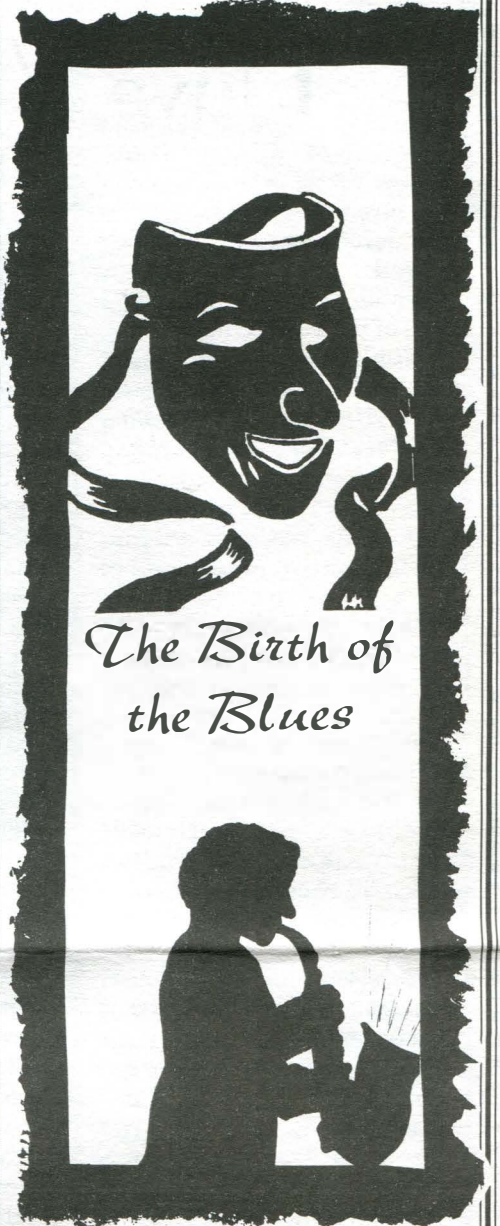
Black achieve-
ment in music
and film cannot
be overlooked.
In music, Ken-
neth Edmonds,
also known as
Babyface, tied
Michael Jackson's
record when he
received twelve
nominations at
the Grammy
Awards. The Bill-
board Music
Awards were also
dominated by
black performers,
especially black
women.

Blacks had a
major impact on
the movie scene
as actors and
moviemakers.
Halle Berry had a
leading role in
*The Rich Man's
Wife*. Spike Lee
showed his view

of the Million Man March in *Get On
the Bus*. Black women came together
for *Waiting To Exhale* and *Set It Off*, and
last summer's blockbuster *Independence Day*
starred Will Smith in the
leading role.

One month out of the year is given
for the celebration of Black History. It
should not be forgotten that Black History
is American History. It should be
taught, discussed, and debated so
Americans will not forget where it has
come from. Americans can also get a
glimpse, if they look carefully enough,
at where they are going.

Design and artwork by Lauren Coggins



"There are those who believe
Black people possess the secret
of joy and that it is this that will
sustain them through any moral
or physical devastation."
Alice Walker

"Nothing in this world is more
dangerous than sincere ignorance
and conscientious stupidity."
Martin Luther King, Jr.

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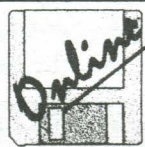
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Memories of 1996...

Coordinator and layout: Katie Payerle
Artwork by Lauren Coggins

"I almost got arrested for protesting for animal rights."
-Sarah Markusen, 10th grade

"I remember the sadness I felt about the church burnings" -
Mrs. Miklos, English teacher

1996 At

Have You Seen Me?

Movies of 1996

By Lauren Coggins

The selection of movies offered in 1996 was enormous, with films for all types of viewers. (Unless you just don't like movies) These lists should cover almost all of them. All information from *Entertainment Weekly Magazine*.

HITS:

* indicates films that grossed more than \$100 million at the box office.

* *Independence Day*: the highest-grossing movie of the year, with more than \$300 million.

* *The Rock*: Sean Connery and ...um...Oh! Nicolas Cage.

101 Dalmatians: a live-action version of the animated Disney classic.

Space Jam: Michael Jordan + Bugs Bunny=\$\$.

* *Mission Impossible*: you're probably still humming the theme song.

* *The Birdcage*: see Gene Hackman in drag, and laugh as Nathan Lane "pierces the toast."

* *Twister*: made half a billion dollars worldwide. We're not in Kansas anymore...

* *The Nutty Professor*: Eddie Murphy takes on six different roles, plus one hilarious dinner-table scene. "Hercules, Hercules..."

* *A Time to Kill*: *To Kill a Mockingbird* minus the talent of Gregory Peck.

* *Ransom*: Mel Gibson, Mel Gibson, Mel Gibson. (and Rene Russo)

* *The First Wives' Club*: husband-bashing with Goldie Hawn, Bette Midler and Diane Keaton.

Star Trek: First Contact: the continuing adventures of Picard and his crew aboard the Starship Enterprise.

The Hunchback of Notre Dame: Disney, animation, cheesy songs, etc...

**Jerry Maguire*: Tom Cruise screams "Show me the money!" as the film's profits surpass \$100 million.

One Fine Day: George Clooney+Michelle Pfeiffer=you decide.

Courage Under Fire: Denzel Washington investigates a female soldier's bravery during Desert Storm.

Jack: Robin Williams behaves like a child. It screams originality.

Sleepers: Brad Pitt...his fans don't need a plot.

MISSES:

These movies just didn't do as well as they were expected to. Wonder why...

Striptease: Demi Moore is a stripper. Does anything really need to be said?

The Island of Dr. Moreau: Marlon Brando in white make-up surrounded by mutants on a remote tropical island. Sound good?

Sgt. Bilko: Steve Martin gives us a different view of the army. Oh, boy.

The Cable Guy: "Oh, Billy!" Maybe Jim Carrey needs a new type of role; he only received \$20 million for this masterpiece.

The Crow: City of Angels: sequel to *The Crow*, minus star Brandon Lee.

The Chamber: yet another courtroom drama, courtesy of the prolific John Grisham. The suspense is killing us—literally—after his first four films.

CLASSICS:

Original ideas seem to have been lacking in '96; studios

turned to adaptations of classical literature quite a few times.

The Crucible: Arthur Miller
Romeo and Juliet: Shakespeare
Looking for Richard: Shakespeare (based on *Richard III*)

The Portrait of a Lady: Henry James

Emma: Jane Austen
The Island of Dr. Moreau: H.G. Wells

Sense and Sensibility: Jane Austen

Moll Flanders: Daniel Defoe
Jane Eyre: Charlotte Bronte

Othello: Shakespeare

WHAT?

You may not have seen or heard these films, but they're supposed to be good, according to movie critics. (That's all that counts, right?) Maybe you should see them sometime.

Fargo: Oh, yah...you should see this one; it's hilarious (if you like dark humor).

Big Night: Stanley Tucci and Campbell Scott star in an Italian food movie.

Trainspotting: the adventures of several Scottish junkies.

Lone Star: murder and mystery on the Texas/Mexico border.

Shine: a great piano player struggles with his genius.

Welcome to the Dollhouse: the agony of being disliked in Junior High school.

Action, mystery, horror, romance and humor...the 1996 movie selection offered something to everyone. But if you didn't get out of the house much in '96, don't worry. Most of these films should be in video stores soon.

Just don't make the same mistake in 1997; you may be missing even more...

The Lighter Side

By Katie Payerle

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times... Those immortal words of Charles Dickens can only begin to describe the craziness of 1996. Charles Dickens was talking about the best of times and worst of times in two cities. 1996 showed us the best and worst in one eventful year. Make no mistake about it, 1996 was a crazy year. For one thing, America held the Olympics and the Presidential election back to back. Actually, judging from the performance of the candidates, if mud-slinging became an Olympic sport, Clinton, Dole, and Perot could score another gold for the United States. In fact, after Bob Dole's "dive" off of the platform on his way to make a speech in Chico, California, maybe he should consider entering two Olympic events.

Speaking of the Olympics, it cannot be overlooked that America had some real Olympic teams to be proud of. For example, the women's gymnastic team made a great showing! No American can forget the heroic vault made by Keri Strug that won the gold! And if any American *could* have forgotten it, NBC cured that problem with the endless replays.

Meanwhile, in science, researchers were examining the surface of Mars. They finally answered the question, "Is Mars capable of life?"

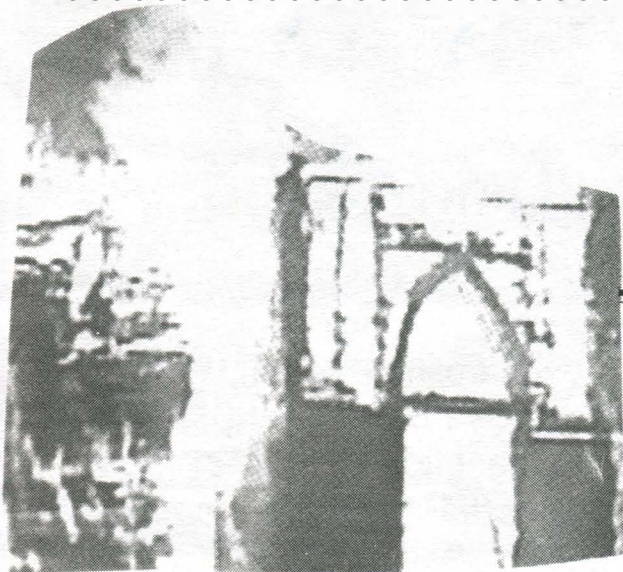
It seems that Mars is capable of supporting life—which may support John Gray's 1996 best-selling claim that Men are From Mars, Women are from Venus.

And what better proof of man's alien status than the vicious first grader who was suspended for—brace yourself—kissing a girl.

So, while kissing in the classroom is no longer legal, marijuana at the doctor's office suddenly is. Since California passed a law legalizing marijuana for medical purposes, the number of sick people in that state undoubtedly quadrupled.

In 1996, I think America established a culture for itself. A culture beyond pig-latin and hamburger joints. Look at dance music, for example. The Macarena, an Hispanic song about two men fantasizing about a woman who repeatedly rejects them has become a favorite song and universal line dance; well, almost universal. It seems no one can agree on how it is done. Even some local teeny-bopper Macarena experts will tell you, "They do it wrong on the video!" Any American who has not learned *some* version of the Macarena, however, should return to either Mars or Venus (consult John Gray).

Perhaps the greatest symbol of American culture that has ever existed showed its furry face late in 1996. This symbol represents something so important, so vital, so monumental that some citizens have mortgaged their houses to obtain it. What is it? The incredible, one-of-a-kind, extraordinary Tickle-Me-Elmo doll which sold out in stores across the United States. It seems that Cabbage Patch dolls have gotten violently jealous of the Elmo doll for overshadowing their own popularity in 1984, evidenced by their sudden attack on unsuspecting children's hair. Which brings us through the year. While those stories are only a fraction of the news in 1996, they certainly paint a picture. So there it is -1996- the best and the worst. What would Dickens have thought?



Yankees win the Pennant (above)

Keri Strug's vault helps the U.S. gymnastics team win the gold. (right)

Predominantly Black southern churches burned (left)



1996



"2Pac was shot" -Darion Stephens, 12th grade

"The Olympics" --Amy Hickel, 12th grade

"My seventeenth birthday party" -Rebecca Wagner, 11th grade

"South beat Providence in Volleyball for the first time." -Amanda Orr, 10th grade

"It was my first year at South Meck" -Braquett Walton 9th grade

A Glance

Sports

By Cliff Mauriello

The Associated Press voted Michael Johnson's two hundred meter dash and four hundred meter dash double gold medal victories the Sport's Story of the Year. I disagree with the AP's decision. After the Olympic flame died out, few Americans probably gave another thought to Johnson; track and field doesn't weigh heavily on the minds of most Americans. Johnson never got the attention the Carolina Panthers received over the course of the 1996-1997 season. Although Johnson's achievements are unprecedented, other athletes will be treasured more in the hearts of sports lovers.

Other Olympians have captured the spotlight. Kerri Strug vaulted on an injured ankle to give the United States its first women's gymnastics team gold medal. U.S. women won the inaugural gold medals in soccer and softball. Carl Lewis won his fourth long jump competition to win his ninth gold medal, and Dan O'Brian finally captured the gold medal that eluded him in the decathlon in Barcelona.

The Chicago Bulls turned in a record setting performance. Michael Jordan, Dennis Rodman, and Scottie Pippen led the World Champions to seventy-two regu-

lar season wins, an NBA best. Jordan won the All-Star MVP award, the regular season MVP award, and the NBA finals MVP award becoming the first player to sweep all three trophies.

The golf world had two remarkable stories. Nick Faldo unexpectedly defeated Greg Norman in the final round of the Masters in Augusta. Norman did not win a major championship in 1996.

Tiger Woods did. The Stanford golf phenom won the NCAA championship and then won his third consecutive U.S. Amateur

Perhaps the greatest effort was given not by a human athlete, but by a horse.

Championship, surpassing Jack Nicklaus' two US Amateur wins. He went pro at the conclusion of the year, won two tournaments, and finished in the top thirty on the money list, earning exemptions for the 1997 PGA Tour.

Baseball may have furnished the most heart warming story of the year. Joe Torre, who had not been to the World Series in over 30 years as a player and a manager, captured baseball's world championship in the Bronx with a 4-2 come from behind win over

Cy Young winner John Smoltz and the Atlanta Braves. The World Series victory was New York's first since the late seventies.

College athletics provided excitement as well. Northwestern continued its storybook run, capturing its second straight Big Ten championship after years of football futility. Michigan kept its spell over Ohio State, giving the national championship to Florida, which avenged a 3 point loss to Florida State with a blowout win over the Seminoles in the Sugar Bowl. North Carolina had its best football season in over fifteen years, but a heart-breaking loss to Virginia kept the Heels out of a major bowl. Wake Forest won its second straight ACC Basketball Championship but could not make the Final Four. Kentucky captured Rick Pitino's first NCAA championship, and Dean Smith of North Carolina closed to within 26 games of Adolph Rupp's games won record. Les Robinson lost his job at N.C. State after completing what was probably the most underrated coaching performance in history, and UCLA skipper Jim Harrick lost his only two years after leading the Bruins to the

national championship for unethical behavior.

Good goes with the bad. Numerous athletes were arrested, and agents continued to mar college athletics and corrupt young athletes with dreams of quick riches.

Perhaps the greatest effort was given not by a human athlete, but by a horse. Cigar broke the record for all time consecutive wins and then retired after staking his claim as horse of the century.

South Mecklenburg sports are well remembered as well. The Lady Sabre hoopsters won their third consecutive Southwestern 4A Tournament title, and the ladies soccer team reached the state semifinals.

Michael Mauriello became the first Sabre to win the individual regional cross country championship, and Arthur Wilson placed his name at the top of the record books in the tackle category, making him one of the greatest linebackers ever to play South Meck football.

The list goes on. There is no way to name a sports story of the year. A fan has to look at the whole year to get the whole picture. And 1996 painted an exciting picture.

WHAT'S IN: FASHION IN 1996

By Branna Calloway and Nicole Ewing

The fashion craze in 1996 was basically summed up in the movie *Clueless*. The characters modeled all of the styles of 1996 including hip-hop, prep, grunge, and retro. Here's a look at some of those fashions.

Bellbottoms-- A big fashion must for the females. These pants fit at the top and fan out into a bell shape at the bottom. They come in almost all kinds of fabrics and colors ranging from soft silk pastels to blue denim to bright neons.

Stovepipes-- A variation of bellbottoms, especially popular among African-Americans.

Droopy Drawers-- A major name in guys fashion for 1996. The emergence of new clothing manufacturers provided guys with a way to get away from the average look. Designs from Tommy Hilfiger and Nautica are traditional, but newer labels such as Mecca and Wu-Wear have given guys a new style.

Grunge-- The big names in grunge fashion are JNCO and Fresh Jive.

Color-- Brown was the most popular color of 1996. Girls wore brown lipstick and brown nail polish to go with mostly brown outfits and brown boots.

Hair-- Short hair made a comeback in 1996. Everyone, including guys chopped off their long locks to achieve that short, simple look. The length wasn't the only thing that changed. For some people, the color was always in flux. Hair color ranged from simple black to purple, blue, or green.

If you weren't in style for 1996, don't fret, your style might be the new thing for 1997.

Laid back and cruisin'

By Kevin Ballantine

Whatsup, Whatsup. Here's an article coming straight at ya running down some of the most used slang in '96. This year, people cut back using that old-school slang. Teens now are livin' large and chillin'. And if you don't speak the lingo, or just want a memory of 1996, here's a quick review.

Chill- Hang out, spend time with friends.

Plug in some tunes- listen to music.

Pop down in front of the tube- Watch TV.

System- Stereo system. Can be described as **phat**, **tight**, **boomin'**, or **thumpin'**.

Arb-Arboretum (the place where you can pump your system and let everyone know who is the **mack-daddy** of them all.

Da bomb- Something that is cool or popular.

Rent-a-cops-Hired security

people that will slap you with a \$100 noise ordinance citation after ten o'clock at night if you're not careful.

Po-po, Five-0- Police officers. Five-o is most used.

.....
You can pump your system and let everyone know who is the mack-daddy of them all.
.....

Much of the slang has come

from the gangsta rap scene. These rappers have innovated the English language by giving it a little twist. Rappers like Snoop Doggy Dogg, Dr. Dre, and 2Pac have contributed greatly from the West Coast. The Wu-Tang has set trends from the shores of New York. These rappers are just a few who have revolutionized the way we speak.

That's the 411 on slang in '96. So for the rest of '97 let's keep it real. Remember that the Class of '97 is the best. **And You Know This... MAN!!**

Lineup



OPS
-THE FBI



Comedian George Burns dies (right)
Richard Jewell is an erroneous suspect in the Olympic bombing (above).

Clinton and Dole race for the Presidency.(above)
Pictures by Newsweek

Faces in the Crowd

Does South need a
block
schedule next year?



Suma cum laude

By Jennifer Collins

Suma Potiny's name has become synonymous with academic achievement, but a closer look at this senior reveals a fun side many people would not expect of such a serious student. Suma represents the senior class at its best.

When mentioning her many achievements, academics success is number one. Her senior schedule includes English 12 AP, Biology 2 AP, Physics AP, and Calculus AP. Her first quarter GPA was a 6.0 and she is ranked third in the class.

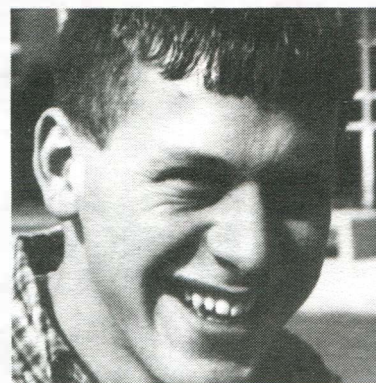
After a busy school day, Potiny can be seen at one of her club meetings. She serves in Peaceful Sabres, ICC, Spanish Honor Society, National Honor Society, and International Club. She is also the President of

South's Beta Club and Vice President of Octagon.

Outside of school, Potiny performs classical Indian dances at community festivals. She has been learning the Bharta Natyam style of dance for the last ten years. "The experience has taught me a lot about my culture. From that, I have gained pride in my heritage," said Suma.

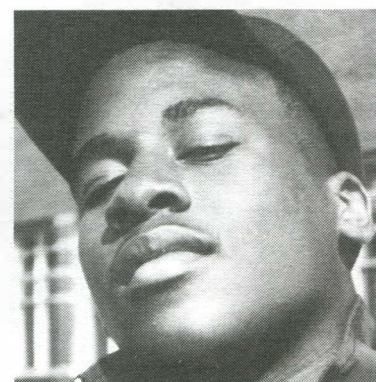
When she is not dancing or studying, Suma enjoys spending time with her friends or working at her current job at Express.

When asked about what South has given to her, Potiny responded "I've changed and grown over the years. South has helped me to realize that there's other things out there, besides academics."



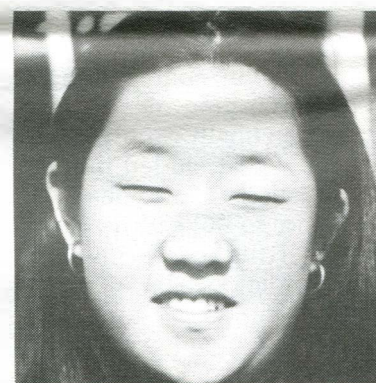
Kyle Hall, 11th

"You can only take so many classes a day; you can only handle so many teachers."



Rob Jones, 11th

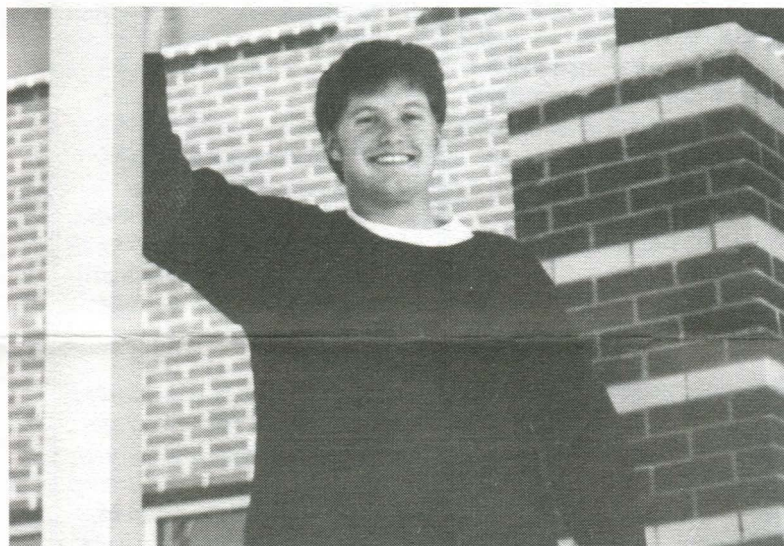
"The schedule works well. Why change it if it isn't broken?"



Emily Ness, 9th

"We came to high school for a change. We aren't back in middle school."

Favorite Color: Lilac
Pet Peeve: Name mispronounced
Ice Cream: Chocolate chip cookie dough
Role Model: Gandhi



Favorite Coffee: French Vanilla
Cologne: Drakkar
CD Player: PFR
Favorite Color: Carolina Blue
Spare Time: Play tennis

Top Dogg on Campus

By Kevin Ballantine

Nathan Babcock just seems to have the touch. He can manage being busy with school, clubs, and a job and still find time to be the "Nate Dogg" the senior class has grown to depend on and admire.

Nathan has excelled academically. He has many advanced classes including Calculus AP and English 12 AP. Nathan sings in the Chamber Choir and is also involved in Beta Club, Spanish Honor Society, Somedra, and Interact. His toughest position is his role as President of the National Honor Society because it requires being responsible for so many people.

Nathan is an active member in his church youth group. He has been on four mission trips, two to New York City, one to Germany, and one to Honduras. "It gives me the chance to

help others less fortunate than I. I was around people with similar world views which strengthened my faith," said Nathan.

During the summer Nathan is a lifeguard at a pool in the community.

"I sit outside all day having nice people to interact with. There is little real work to do and it's fun," said Babcock.

Nathan plans to attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He wants to study political science and business. Nathan sees himself as a lawyer, politician, or a judge later on in life.

He wants to attend Carolina. "It's the best college value in America," he said. While he used to be a diehard N. C. State fan, he's now a Tar Heel fan.

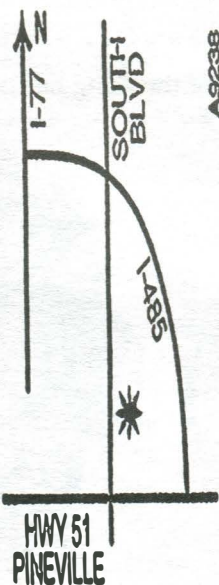
"Now I support a winner," he said.

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Lacrosse Anyone?

By Kevin Ballantine

There's something new coming this spring to South. Besides sunny skies and warm weather, lacrosse will be joining South's spring sports schedule. Lacrosse is a new sport on the public high school athletic scene, and the struggles to start a team have been tremendous.

This year, along with South, West Meck, Providence, and Myers Parks will start lacrosse teams.

Wake Forest, Duncan Play for # 1 Ranking

By Cliff Mauriello

Tim Duncan is a coach's nightmare. For the first two months of the college basketball season, Wake Forest's All-American center has out-rebounded, out-scored, and out-blocked every player in the Atlantic Coast Conference. Duncan has easily shrugged off defenses designed to contain him, and his teammates have been lethal from behind the three point arc.

Only two ACC team's have beaten the Demon Deacons. Maryland hit a controversial shot to upset Wake Forest in Winston Salem. The Duke Blue Devils, by locking down on the perimeter, also knocked off the Deacons, costing Dave Odom the school's first number one ranking.

Powerhouse North Carolina lost its first three ACC games, but Dean Smith has guided the Heels steadily from the bottom of the standings. Ed Cota has become a solid point guard for Carolina's half court offense, and Serge Zwikker has become an offensive threat at center.

Four ACC teams, Wake, Duke, Clemson, and Maryland, are ranked in the Top Ten. The Deacons have been number two for almost the entire season.

Wrestling Update

By Warren Foster

The Sabre wrestling team has had a successful season, ranking third in Mecklenburg County.

The Sabres were led by Captains Gerry Hoskins and Justin Boudrie. They were ranked first and second in Mecklenburg County and first and third in the conference, respectively. Morris Sanders also gained high honors, wrestling his way to first place in the conference and third in Mecklenburg County. He has an overall record of 31-9. Coach Houghton commented, "We are a very young team, with 23 out of 27 returning, and only three seniors competing in the 14 weight classes. The young men on the team have really matured under the leadership of their captains."

Steven Houghton finished third in the Junior High State Championships, and Cameron Stinson finished as the State Champion. Fortunately, both are freshmen. Coach Kendrick said, "The captains have laid the groundwork for our future and we are looking for big things next year."

Matt Elliot works hard to be a Carolina Panther

By Jennifer Collins

Who's that guy behind the helmet? It's none other than the starting offensive lineman for the Carolina Panther football team. Matt Elliot is more than an athlete; he's a role model for all.

High school in Indianapolis was more than just football for Elliot. He also played hockey and threw the shot-put for the track team. His most memorable high school moment was winning the state championship in football. His team won the title in overtime in front of 40,000 fans at the Hoosier Dome.

High school was also more than just athletics for Matt. He had the academic grades to get accepted to any college of his



Elliot takes a moment to smile for the camera after practice.

choice. He chose the University of Michigan.

It was not always easy for the star player. He has dealt with his fair share of injuries, having five operations on three various

parts of his body. An injury caused him to give up his starting position at the beginning of the season. However, Elliot did regain his position as a starter by the end of the season.

When asked advice for high school students, he responded "You've got to be your own person. Don't emulate others. Yet, at the same time, learn from them."

Matt also believes it is important to listen to elders and learn from their experiences. Matt's role models are Mike Webster, Julius Irving, Bobby Orr, and most importantly, his father. He is impressed by the ideals of Winston Churchill.

Playing professional ball was always a dream for young Elliot; not a goal. According to Matt, a goal is something you can physically work for and achieve. A dream has too many outside factors which one cannot control.

Lady Sabres on a roll

By Karen Whichard

At the midpoint of the 1996-1997 conference season, the Lady Sabre basketball team has a perfect record, defeating all other conference teams. Led by great defensive play, the Sabres have been on a roll dating back to the Christmas tournament, where South knocked perennial power McDowell out of the tournament's first round.

One of the keys to the success of the Sabres is the team's offensive execution. Against teams in Charlotte, with the exception of West Meck, South has held opponents under forty points per game. The Sabres, in their two losses since Christmas break, went through long periods without scoring a field goal. In the conference showdown

against higher ranked East Meck, the Sabres were able to maintain a consistent scoring performance throughout all four quarters.

Probably the greatest advantage the Sabres have, ironically, is a lack of respect from outside groups. Consistently ranked lower in the Observer Sweet Sixteen than teams they have easily defeated, South has the motivation to disprove the rankings. Home attendance has also been poor. This situation mirrors that of the '94-'95 squad, which finished just short of an appearance in the state final game. Even though they may not receive the recognition, South definitely has the potential to win the state title.

Swim and dive teams continue to improve; past season a success

By Nicole Ewing

The men's and women's swim and dive team finished the 1996-97 season very successfully. The women's team placed third in the conference, losing only to Myers Park and Providence. The guys' team improved from last year's finish, coming in fourth.

With the close of the season, South will lose six seniors, all of whom were captains this year. Senior Lauren Woody, in her last swim season said, "This season was a lot of fun. We all worked very hard to accomplish what we did. I will definitely miss everyone on the team."

Luckily, there are many upcoming sophomores and juniors who are certain to make a splash next season and fulfill the team's goal of finishing second.

"I was very happy with the way the season turned out," said coach Diane Dave. "Hopefully next year we can beat Myers Park and come in second. With a lot of hard work and dedication, I know that the team can

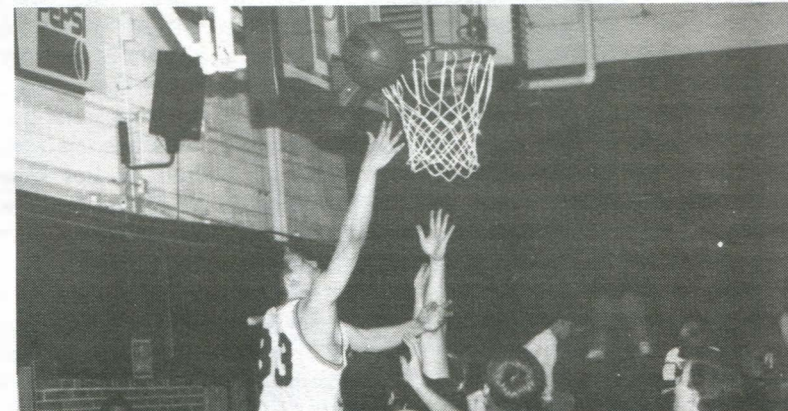
do it."

Many of the swimmers from South qualified for the regionals, which will be held in February. If they place fifth or higher, these athletes will advance to the state tournament, which is held in Charlotte.

"I was very happy with the season."

Coach Dave

The diving team also had a great season. With only four people on the team, South proved to the larger teams that talent often comes in small numbers. "I am very proud to be a part of this team. Even though we don't have a lot of people, we work very hard and that shows when we dive," said Paige Woodard. They finished fourth in the conference meet, which was an improvement from last season.



Matt Schafermeyer makes the shot in the Providence victory.

Men's team plays well

By Karen Whichard

The talk of the boys' prep basketball season has been the rivalry between West Charlotte and Independence. These two teams have dominated the Southwestern 4A conference, and are heavily favored to make a run at the state title. South Meck nearly became the giant slayer against both, losing against each team in the closing moments of the fourth quarter.

The Sabre's exceptional play against these and other schools really should not be a surprise.

Coach Davis pushes them hard, and said, "Our motto is to consistently play hard, play together, and play intelligently." While South may not have the height of other conference squads, their never die spirit has made nearly every game close.

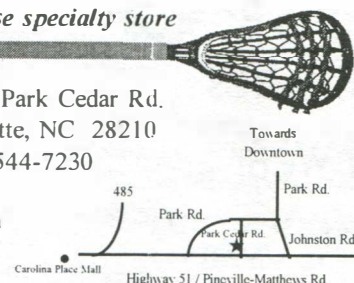
The biggest weakness of the team has been playing a consistently mentally sound game. If South can overcome this shortcoming, they will be poised to make a run in the conference tournament.

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Senior Mysteries



By Kevin Ballantine

This upbeat senior mystery always has a smile. She can be seen eating her lunch during Calculus. She has a tough schedule with AP and AG classes and is a member of several clubs including SOS, National Honor Society, German Club and German Honor Society, and Beta Club.

In her spare time she works as an office assistant at Food Lion. She can be seen driving a sporty teal Toyota Celica ST and has been spotted running with her dog in Park Crossing. She also spends time with her blue-eyed, blond-haired boyfriend. Can you guess who this senior is?



By Keith Mason

If you see Kristy Howard around campus you'll more than likely see this senior mystery tagging along with her. The two are inseparable. She is busily involved in FBLA, DECA, the Zakiya Step Team, and serving as the President of NAACP. Away from school she works as a sales associate for Victoria's Secret. In her spare time, she relaxes by reading, listening to music, and watching movies. The movie *Friday* happens to be her all time favorite. In the future she hopes to pursue a nursing degree from East Carolina University. Can you guess this senior mystery?

What's new Buenos Aires?

By Lauren Coggins

"And the Golden Globe for best motion picture, comedy or musical, goes to... *Evita*!"

On January 19, the audience at the Golden Globe awards cheered for director Alan Parker and Producer Robert Stigwood as they accepted the award for *Evita*. No other movie in the category (comedy/musical) deserved the award so much.

Evita was awe inspiring. The rags to riches story of a poor Argentine girl who rose to become the wife of Dictator Juan Peron and First Lady stars Madonna, Antonio Banderas and Jonathan Pryce. Two years in the making, *Evita* is composed entirely of music from the musical by Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber. One new song, "You Must Love Me", was composed for the film.

It was nominated for five Golden Globe awards, and received three: Best Actress, Best Picture and Best Original Song. Alan Parker did an outstanding job adapting the Broadway hit musical *Evita* to the big screen. Characters come alive, and transitions from one time period to another are seamless. Songs become a part of the action, and great acting draws the audience into the film.

Parker was not the only person to do a wonderful job. The casting agent was pretty intelligent. Not only can Madonna, Banderas, and Pryce sing well, they are very talented actors. Banderas' glances straight at the camera are powerful, and his many fans loved them. He plays Che, the narrator who opposes *Evita*, disagreeing with just about everything she does.

Pryce plays Juan Peron, the dictator of Argentina who eventually marries *Evita*. His sincere performance made viewers feel as if they know Peron.

Madonna, the star of the film, won a well-deserved Globe for her portrayal of Eva Peron. Anyone who still believes she has no talent can see *Evita* and eat their words. Madonna sings better than she ever has before, and her acting surpasses that of many big name actresses. Does it really matter that parallels can be drawn between her own life and *Evita*'s? No, it only makes her performance stronger, because she is able to relate to her role.

Go see *Evita* before it leaves the theaters. See it twice. Sit in a semi-comfortable chair for just over two hours and let the beautiful music and acting carry you away. You won't regret it.

South hosts DECA conference

By Mike Klein

Over six hundred DECA students from ten schools from across the county filled the halls of South on January 8, 1997, for the annual District 11 Marketing Competitive Events Conference.

DECA, an association of marketing professionals, held the competition so students could use the marketing fundamentals learned in the classroom in everyday life. Competition also doubles as a qualifier for March's North Carolina State Career Development Conference in Winston Salem.

The competition actually began in December, when students completed a timed exam at their respective high schools. The test score was combined with the score from a role-play situation performed at South. Winners were determined by this overall score.

South's DECA chapter had an impressive showing, with many members reaching proficiency on their combined scores. South had more finalists than any

other school in the competition. Eight students finished as overall runners-up in their respective categories, and Maricia Covington, John Flumian, Mike Klein, and Kathy van Brederode won overall titles.

South Meck DECA was honored at MCEC as the third place winner in the District 11 Nickel Drive. South raised over \$140.00 to help purchase holiday gifts for twenty-six children from the Angel Tree at Eastland Mall for Christmas.

Student trainers support athletic teams

By Andrew Buchert

At just about every sporting event at South Mr. Bradley and his student trainers are watching the field and sidelines for injured athletes. The unsung heroes of athletics, the student trainers are there to keep the players in healthy playing condition.

South's student trainers, most of them females, work under the supervision of Mr. Bradley and his assistant Mike Ward, who graduated from South last year. In addition to looking after injured players and assisting with treatment, they are also responsible for keeping track of equipment and carrying water to the players. The student trainers travel with the teams and work long hours to cover as many

events as possible, sometimes working from the time school gets out until 10:30 at night.

The trainers don't look for praise, but the "coaches and athletes are glad we're there when an injury occurs," said Mr. Bradley.

If you are interested in learning first aid techniques, how to treat and prevent injuries, proper nutrition, or are interested in a career in the medical field, then Mr. Bradley's Sports Medicine classes may be for you.

South has one of the largest Sports Medicine programs in the state, offering classes in Sports Medicine I, II, and III, as well as internships in Sports Medicine IV. "This program

will help students interested in medical careers get a head start," said Mr. Bradley.

The students learn about the body in general, and lots of medical vocabulary, the same vocabulary used in college medical programs. They also attend several symposiums a year; students in Sports Medicine II and III classes will be going to Wake Forest School of Medicine to observe human organs later this year.

Mr. Bradley needs more student trainers, and wants to increase the number of students in higher levels of Sports Medicine. "If you ever see student trainers at a game tell them thank-you," reminds Mr. Bradley, "They are fantastic!"

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